

TARC Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

www.k4ksc.com

**Volume III, Issue 5
May 2026**

Our primary mission is to provide for education, training, maintenance, licensing and testing of Amateur Radio Operators as defined in FCC Regulations Part 97.

Our purpose is to foster comradery among fellow Amateur Radio Operators within the North Brevard, Florida area through social events and organized Ham radio contests.

A 501c3 federal tax-exempt nonprofit organization. EIN 39-4794447

Weekly On-the-Air Nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time	Net Control
2 Meter SSB Net	144.210 MHz USB	Monday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
Skywarn Net	146.970 MHz	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Barry N4NMF
Mosquito Net	28.333 MHz USB	Wednesday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
Friendship Traders Net	146.970 MHz	Thursday	7:00 PM	Keith W4KWD
Magic 6 Meter Net	50.250 MHz USB	Friday	7:00 PM	Mike KW4DX

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PRESIDENTS Message

April was a great month for TARC.

Our April meeting featured Frank Haas KB4T who's presentation on Locating and Eliminating Power Line Interference was great. Our members looked on with keen interest as he spoke.

Our third annual Florida QSO Party was great. Participation from regulars was a hit as always and we had a few new faces and some visitors. I want to send a big shout out and Thank You to Tom KN4GLO and Sally KN4HPX for the use of their QTH. I also want to thank Tom KN4GLO for stepping up and being our event coordinator! Thanks to members Stephane K4MVO, myself N4DCK and others that fed the crew for the entire event (5 meals). The TARC members that setup and took down the equipment worked with stellar teamwork. Our Most Valuable Operators Stephanie K4MVO, Rick Bunton KB4MIS, Greg KK4LWB, and Barry N4NMF. The team racked up 653 QSOs with an unofficial score of 38,527. We even had a brief shower that left a rainbow over the trailer!

Its time to gear up for ARRL Field Day on June 26—27 at Fox Lake Park.

Diane N4DCK

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes: Titusville Amateur Radio Club (TARC) K4KSC Inc.

Date: 28 April 2026 Time: 19:00

Location: The Masonic Lodge, Titusville, Florida

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President, Diane Kennedy- N4DCK, who welcomed everyone to the April 2026 meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Keith DeSoto- W4KWD.

3. Introductions

Self-introductions were performed by the membership. Notable attendees and guests included:

- David Hobart - Guest, Titusville City Council candidate – Seat 5
- Frank Haas – KB4T

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Secretary's minutes from the March 24, 2026, meeting as published in the April newsletter.

- Motion: Diane Kennedy – N4DCK
- Second: Roy Merritt – N4RKM
- Result: Carried.

5. Voting of New Members

The following applications were presented for membership:

- Jim Morgan WB4PXO
- Rick Bunton KB4MIS
- Chuck Cole K4TZO

Result: All three candidates were approved by a majority vote of the membership.

6. Treasurer's Report

Presented by the Treasurer for the month of March:

- Savings Account: Ending balance of \$5,375.74.
- Checking Account: Ending balance of \$4,138.21.
- Total Cash Balance: \$9,513.95.

Significant Expenses: Annual state report filing, liability insurance premium, and the purchase of an Icom 7300 Mark 2.

- Motion to Accept: Roy Merritt – N4RKM
- Second: Greg Hand – KK4LWB
- Result: Carried.



Meeting Minutes Continued

7. Old Business

Equipment Redistribution: Excess club equipment has been redistributed.

Special thanks were given to Tom and Sally for providing storage and handling distribution without fees.

Denman Road Repeater: A work party is being organized to replace guy cable connectors on the anchor points. This task must be completed within the next three weeks, prior to the start of hurricane season.

Volunteers: Tom, Barry, and Ed.

Florida QSO Party Results:

Over 653 QSOs recorded and uploaded to the state site.

Worked 40 of 67 Florida counties, several DX stations, and all but one Canadian province.

Points appear to be several hundred higher than the previous year.

Special recognition was given to Greg – KK4LWB, Stephanie – K4MVO, Rick -, and Barry – N4NMF for their station QSO work over the weekend.

ARRL Field Day: Members were encouraged to monitor the Facebook group and email for volunteer sign-ups for ARRL Field Day located at Fox Lake park, Titusville Florida June 27 – 28!

8. New Business “Guest Speaker”

Guest Speaker: Frank Haas (K4BT), retired FPL Power Line Interference Investigator.

Presentation Summary:

- Frank discussed his 20-year career with FPL and his ongoing work helping clubs
- establish interference investigation teams.
- Key Advice: Always check internal home sources first (switching power supplies, LED lamps, elevator chargers, and doorbell transformers).
- Technical Insights: Power line interference is often caused by failing lightning arresters (which fail frequently in “thunderstorm alley”) or loose hardware on poles rather than the transformers themselves.
- Tools: Mentioned the use of direction-finding skills and Type 31/43 ferrites to mitigate noise.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was abbreviated to allow for the guest presentation. Meeting concluded for technical discussion and social time.

Minutes Submitted By: [Greg Hand – KK4LWB - Secretary



Florida QSO Party April 25—26
Coordinator: Tom Fuller KN4GLO



TARC Tech Tip: Tracking RFI Like a Pro

Contributed by Frank Hass (K4BT) Submitted by Greg Hand KK4LWB

If your noise floor is hovering at S9, you don't have to just "live with it." Here are the key takeaways from our April meeting on how to hunt down Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) without breaking the bank or your equipment.

1. The "Golden Rule" of Noise Hunting

Always hunt in **AM Mode**. Whether you are using your HF rig or a handheld receiver, AM mode makes the "sound" of interference—like the buzzing of a failing lightning arrester or the hum of a computer-controlled traffic light—much easier to identify. Sideband (SSB) and CW often mask the very signatures you need to hear.

2. Essential Gear for Your Toolkit

You don't need an \$8,000 professional investigator's kit to find the source.

- **The Receiver:** The **Tecsun PL-680** (approx. \$140) is a club favorite. It covers HF, Airband, and Shortwave, and it's battery-operated for easy "fox hunting" around the neighborhood.
- **The Antenna:** For precise direction finding, the **National RF "Vector Gun"** is the gold standard for hams. This loop system allows you to find sharp nulls to point you directly at the offending source.

3. Common "Local" Culprits

Before you blame the power lines, check your own backyard:

- **LED Power Supplies:** Specifically outdoor floodlights.
- **Traffic Lights:** Many intersections have computer controllers that bleed noise onto the high end of the AM band (around 1710 kHz).
- **The Neighbors:** Plasma TVs are mostly in landfills now, but older sets can still wipe out entire bands.

4. Working with the Utility (FPL)

If the noise is coming from a pole, **do not take a sledgehammer to it**. Not only is it dangerous, but it's also a great way to get arrested. Instead:

- **Call it in:** Contact the utility for an RFI investigation.
- **The Etiquette Rule:** Always be polite to the investigator (currently Paul Chamay). If you antagonize the technician, your case may find its way to the bottom of the stack.

Want to help? TARC is looking to form a dedicated **Interference Investigation Team**.

If you're interested in learning the art of direction finding and helping fellow members clear their airwaves, reach out to Greg KK4LWB at the next meeting!



Club News

NEXT MEETING IS May 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Indian River Masonic Lodge, 19 N. Washington Ave. located at the Corner of S. Washington Ave. (Rte. 1) and Garden St.

Visit Us on Facebook!!

Our new Facebook Public Page is online now! It's a work in progress, Please go there to like and follow us. <https://www.facebook.com/K4KSC/>
I'm looking for club photos to post!!

Consider joining our Facebook Private Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447071731203431>

Visit Us on Online!! Find us online at: www.K4KSC.com

Titusville Amateur Radio Club Membership Application (All Current Members Primary, Family or Life **must fill out this Application**. The form is available on our website K4KSC.COM or copies will be available at each meeting.

* Checks are made out to **K4KSC Inc**

* If applicable, please put your callsign in the memo field of your check.

If you wish to pay in cash (correct change is appreciated), please bring it and your completed Membership Application to the meeting and give it to Steve – NA4SA our Treasurer.

Titusville ARC Call Sign / Name Badges – \$11.00 each (+Tax) and price is **subject to change**.

These **can be ordered directly** by getting a form from Barry N4NMF

Then fill out the Form and take it to :

Award Trophy – 4424 S. Hopkins Ave

Titusville 32780

Phone: (321) 269-7584.

You can talk with Kevin or other staff members whom will be glad to help you place your order.

You can also contact Barry N4NMF for help or questions about ordering them.



June 27—28 : ARRL Field Day

FOX LAKE PARK

Coordinator: Greg Hand KK4LWB

The contest starts at 2 pm on Saturday and runs until 2 pm Sunday
Reach out to Greg Hand via email, phone or on air to volunteer.



On-Air Events

Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air - Ham Radio Special Event

Submitted by Greg KK4LWB / Mike KC4JEM

Date: June 6 - 21, 2026

The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event is an on air activity that commemorates the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. The trail covers 4900 miles through 16 states. This includes the disembarkation from Camp Dubois and what is referred to as the Eastern Legacy. The event is sponsored by the Clark County Amateur Radio Club with support and participation from clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail.

Simple Rules: Contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. There are 2 bonus stations that may each be substituted for a missing state to get to a 16 state total. Operating modes include SSB Phone, FM Phone, CW and FT8/FT4. Any combination of modes towards working all 16 states and bonus stations is allowed.

A schedule for planned operations for each activating station on the trail will be posted on this web site.

<https://www.w7aia.org/>



13 Colonies Special Event

Submitted by Barry N4NMF

July 1 @ 9:00 am - July 7 @ 11:59 pm EDT

UTC Dates and Times

Begin: Tuesday July 01, 2026 at 1300Z

End: Tuesday July 08, 2026 at 0400Z

Work Special Event Stations K2A – K2M representing each of the original Thirteen Colonies

K2A New York, K2B Virginia, K2C Rhode Island, K2D Connecticut, K2E Delaware, K2F Maryland, K2G Georgia, K2H Massachusetts, K2I New Jersey, K2J North Carolina, K2K New Hampshire, K2L South Carolina, K2M Pennsylvania plus two bonus stations: GB13COL, England; TM13COL, France and WM3PEN, the William Penn Station in Philadelphia.

EVENT WEBSITE link: <http://13colonies.us/>



On-Air Events



US National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend (NLLW)

Submitted by Barry N4NMF

Celebrating National Lighthouse Day

Coinciding with the [US National Lighthouse Day](#), the US National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend (NLLW) is an annual lighthouse operating and activation opportunity celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the United States federal lighthouse service. This is a day to celebrate lighthouses, lightships and the commitment and service of those who tended America's lights for generations.

Dates

National Lighthouse Day is [unofficially August 7th](#) each year. This is FRIDAY August 7th for 2026 making the following weekend the event dates of August 8th and 9th.

<https://arlhs.com/events/national-lighthouse-lightship-week-nllw/>

Route 66 On the Air: 100th Anniversary

Submitted by Greg KK4LWB

Date: September 12 - 20, 2026

This event is a national phenomenon. Working all 20+ "Mother Road" stations could be a fun club challenge that can be done from our home shacks while chatting on a local repeater.

<https://www.nadxa.com/>

<https://w6jbt.org/>

<https://www.arrl.org/news/route-66-on-the-air-special-event-1>





2026 MONTHLY EVENTS

June 27 – 28: ARRL Field Day

October 27: Annual Potluck

December TBA: Annual Christmas Party

Fox Lake Park

Masonic Lodge

Dixie Crossroads

Coordinator: Greg KK4LBW

Dinner: 6 PM

Dinner: 6 PM

2027 MONTHLY EVENTS

JANUARY 23-24: Winter Field Day

MARCH 27: Annual Mosquito Tailgate

April 24 -25: Florida QSO

KN4GLO QTH

Fox Lake Park

KN4GLO QTH

Coordinator: Greg KK4LBW

Submit your ideas and articles to President@K4KSC.COM

Visit Us at K4KSC.COM

